

June 29, 1954

Dear Joshua,

Thank you very much for your last two letters. I had much pleasure in knowing ~~that~~ news of your Professorship. It is good that your administrators show a sign of appreciation that nobody else had done as much as you have, in microbial genetics (and in a very short time indeed).

The results obtained lately from my pilot fermentation permitted me to decide a date for leaving, and I have just got the boat reservation for Aug. 15 approximately. It will be a slow boat, a freighter; but the Rockefeller pays for only one person's fare, and that time of the year would be wasted anyhow. The worst is that, with such kind of ships, there is more uncertainty than usual as to the date of arrival, which should, however be the last days of August or beginning of September.

If you are in New York, and leave for Madison, after our arrival (alternatively, we might join you at Woods Hole if you do not come to New York), it would certainly be very good for us to travel with you and Esther. I shall try to get a driving license in New York if I have time. It will be all right to collect your messages at Davis' lab, provided he is there at that time; I have met Davis at the congresses and was planning to see him in New York anyhow. As to our stay in New York, all we have is a suggestion by the Novicks of a hotel (Winslow). We may be staying there a very short time. Any other suggestion is gratefully acknowledged in advance. Depending on free time in New York, we might perhaps go straight to Cold Spring Harbor; it seems likely the town labs will be mostly empty in early September.

As to the book, I agree with most of what you say, except that I am slightly suspicious that a discussion of adaptation in higher organisms might take us a bit too far, unless we keep it to narrow limits; of course, the stress, and space to be given to the various aspects and ~~the~~ parts of the book are the main problem for which direct contact will be essential. Concerning adaptation to antibodies: it is such a fascinating subject that I would tend to include it, considering it rather as a related problem which may help to throw light <sup>on</sup>, and receive light from, the main issue of adaptation to chemotherapeutics. On the other hand, the title "Genetics and Chemotherapy" which you proposed some time ago seems so good that it would be a pity to give it up by deviating excessively from it.

My own address will remain the present usual one until the day we leave. As soon as I shall know the date of my arrival in New York I shall let you know, by cable if necessary—especially if it were altered later.

My wife and I are looking forward with great pleasure to our trip.

Yours sincerely

*Luca*

P.S. Thanks for your statistical notes, which tend to show a situation comparable, on average, to the one here. Especially Pupa would appreciate a few suggestions on the climate conditions, assuming that we stay until December.